

In Response to the Office Action:

OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION:

The abstract of the Application has been amended to remove the legal phraseology as objected to in the Action. Applicant submits that the above amendments obviate the objection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, claims 3, 4, 8, 14, and 15 have been amended according to the specific concerns indicated by Examiner. Additionally, the substance of Claims 11 and 12 now appears in new claims 17 and 18; claim 17 has been amended to depend from new claim 16 which incorporates the limitation of claim 9 as well. Proper antecedent basis can now be found in the claims. Finally, Applicant has cancelled claims 11 and 12 in view of the addition of the new claims that contain their subject matter.

Applicant submits that the above amendments obviate the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and thus ask the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims and indicate their allowance in the next paper from the Office.

Given the above, Applicant requests that the rejection of Claims 3, 4, 8, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that the Examiner indicate the allowance of the claims in the next paper from the Office.

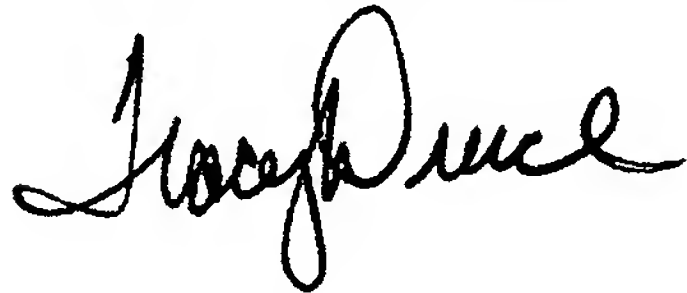
It is believed that the above changes place the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, Order No. 7589.072.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy W. Druce', written in a cursive style.

Tracy W. Druce
Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 35,493
Tel. 202.659.0100